

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 23 No. 7

July 15, 1955

Whole No. 274

Ye Brotherhood, the Round-Uu and Its Editor

by Charles Duprez



First Row: J. P. Guinon, Ralph Cummings, Charles Bragin
2nd row: Albert Johannsen, E. T. LeBlanc, Eli A. Messier
3rd row: Buckskin Bill Randolph, I. S. Seidman, Clyde Wakefield
4th row: Wm. M. Burns, George French, Charles Duprez,

Ye Brotherhood, the Round-Uu and Its Editor

by Charles Duprez

Tis quite certain that all you Brothers remember the good olde vaudeville days where the headliners were on, either just before intermission or near closing. Today where there is a Master of Ceremonies, he or she asks the hero worshipping pop eyed audience for applause even before they see the act. Not in vaudeville, there you were allowed to use your own judgment. Therefore I will place before you my various characters, ala vaudeville and you can applaud, cheer, stamp your feet, or give em the well known bird, the latter would be more fittingly bestowed upon this writer. My headliner, Eddie Le Blanc will be placed in a spot where he can shine and sparkle as is his due.

I will always feel grateful to Charlie Bragin for my contact with Reckless Ralph, the fashionplate of Massachusetts who now has lost that creamy look after drifting from the milk business.

Met Ralph back in 45—1945, not 1845, from there on I met or corresponded with as fine a set of fellows one would care to know. Men in many important fields of life; all having a weakness for dime novels.

Unfortunately quite a few have passed on to greener pastures, given the last rites in the Roundup by Reckless as only Ralph can bestow. No

doubt you all know his send off, worse for word by now. Should he get around to me I'm sure he will change his wording to, "I hope Charlie took his shovel along".

G. Fred Orphal was the last to go, Feb. 15th of this year. A week prior, Fred had planned a trip out to see me here in the sticks and was coming loaded down with a bottle of schnaps to celebrate the event. This gave me two things to mourn, the passing of Fred and the schnaps. As a friend of long standing he could at least have waited until after the visit. The schnaps might have helped me go along with him—I was that thirsty. But back to my dime novel pals who are still perculatin.

As an opener, several letters from Prof. Johannsen who gave me a good going over for using what he termed my outrageous German. Little did the Professor know I had been thoroughly educated in German by Weber and Fields, and other prominent German comics of that era.

Ken Dunschee edits the nationally known magazine, News from Home, published by the Home Insurance Co. of New York. Has even a larger circulation than the Roundup. I knew Ken a long time and never knew he was one of our Brotherhood. A rotten correspondent, but I forgive him as

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he did buy a few of my tall tales for publication. Wealth hath power.

Ken Daggett can build anything from a mouse trap to a skyscraper. Not so long ago Ken built an entire new chimney atop Ralph's home and when completed at the end of a tough day, as an encore to his admiring one man audience (Ralph) did some handstands in Ralph's den just to show he still had plenty of moxie left in the old boy. Had Ken told me he did a hand stand atop the newly completed chimney he might have had a ripple of applause from me.

Eli Messier, an expert, and I mean expert on textiles. He described his work to me, but he might just as well have told me how to run a submarine, I was that enlightened. Besides being a dime novel addict, a great dog lover, still mourns the loss of his Queenie which so far no other dog has replaced in his affection. A soft heart has Eli.

George French, a crackerjack photographer, can hold his own with the best, especially in color. Every summer he gallops around the State of Maine making beautiful shots for the Chamber of Commerce of that state. He also does much in color for calendars. His pin up gals are in possession of most all the boys in the Army and Navy all over the world. On the latter, George, let me know if you need an assistant.

Roy Morris raises vast amounts of oranges down in Florida and runs a Motor Court besides for weary travelers and Love Birds. Highly recommended for fancy neckin.

Good old Joe Ambruster, he writes quite often. Only recently his many friends helped celebrate his 80th birthday, more power to ye Joe. He has stopped riding his high wheel bike as per his story in Roundup May, 1954. Was once quite a railroad man and wound up booking people to all parts of the world.

Col. Chas. O. Randolph, Buckskin Bill, see Ed. Leithead's grand tale about his life as a frontiersman. In the tale it states he was called Buckskin due to his wearing Buckskin from head to foot, however no men-

tion was made whether this included his neck ties, socks or underwear.

J. P. Guinon—now ye got me. Going by his various one page letters I gathered he was a retired millionaire. As a hobby his wife interested him in becoming a deep sea diver, going after hard to get sea shells. States his wife is the best cook in the world—I wonder.

Si Seidman, magazine and newspaper editor and known as the Lover Boy of Broadway. I could tell you a lot about Si, but guess I better not.

J. Edward Leithead wrote once or twice and I felt greatly honored that our best contributor to the Roundup bothered with me, always being so busy digging up interesting material for the Brotherhood.

Carl Linville—globe trotter. He wrote recently asking directions for a visit to yours truly. Last I heard he was in Africa some place following the route I gave him which would take him halfway around the world. Hope he gets here in time for lunch.

Clyde Wakefield, met him several times at Ralph's but never found out just what Clyde did for nourishment. However going by the swell car he usually arrived in was quite certain twas nothing trivial. Fearing one of my biographies, possibly that is why he did not tell me.

Last but far from least my good friend Bill Burns of Rockland, Me. Well, Bill, what with all your recent troubles tis no wonder I have not had your usual really humorous letters. My one regret is that my biography about the Rockland Terror, written long before your troubles began had been sent to the printers too late to have it cancelled.

That just about winds up my contact with the brothers and no doubt many will be grateful they did not write to me.

So now Eddie me bucko, make your bow, your on and I will try to spare the horses.

A few years ago on one of my visits to Ralph I was fortunate enough to meet not only Eddie, but also his Dad. The elder Le Blanc and I hit it off right away, having much in common.

I was rather surprised to find Eddie being so young had the dime novel fever, this due of course to the bug having flittered from Father to Son. I was cordially invited to visit them in Fall River. This came to pass some time later, Ralph and I both went. They can say all they like about Southern hospitality but the entire Le Blanc family sure outdid themselves to make one feel welcome.

While there, one could not mistake the love bug that kept bouncing back and forth between Eddie and a cute lil trick by the name of Florence. The bug did its work so well that in 1953 they had to carry Eddie down the aisle where Florence became Mrs. Eddie Le Blanc. Then the strangest thing happened, Fall River's population had increased by one. One little Margarita entered the picture and proud Grandma Le Blanc has been bouncing the newcomer around on her knee ever since. Among the many friends and relatives there was much argument as to whom the baby resembled, der Momma or der Poppa. A child specialist who happened to be there when opinions got to a noisy point assured every one it was nothing to worry about as many babies outgrow the resemblance especially the father.

I was going to write more regarding Le Blanc Sr., but as Eddie intends doing a biography about him and his dime novel experiences will leave that to Eddie. You of course read in the Roundup about the tragedy that hit the family when in August 1953 his Dad met with a fatal auto accident. This news reached me shortly after my visit to Fall River and having taken such a liking to him I sure felt mighty bad about it.

Eddie was born in a small town called Georgiaville, R. I. eight miles north of Providence, R. I. Aug. 31st, 1920. Until Eddie appeared the population was 600, after his birth, increased to 600½.

Very little if anything is related in our history books as to his very early life so we will skip that, possibly did nothing to arouse comment outside of the family and complaining neighbors.

When old enough to know a few things he did like to have his Dad read to him, and from novels no less. Little Red Riding Hood or other fairy tales held little interest. His first novel was a reprint size Liberty Boys Weekly. From there on he was a full fledged addict and often cried when not allowed to read in bed.

At fifteen he became a real collector. An ad in Wild West Weekly by Ralph P. Smith started Eddie and his dad off with Brother Smith and other members of the Brotherhood, corresponding. Then came the exchanging and buying. The depression finally hit town and collecting was held back for a number of years. Graduating from business college in 1939 he went to work and once again to collecting. Late in 39 he started working for the Navy Department in Washington and then transferred to the Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R. I., April 41. Oct. 42, unable to make the grade as a 4F, he was drafted into military service and spent 3 years, 3 months, 3 days and 15½ minutes with the air force in various installations in Florida; Morrison Air Force Base, West Palm Beach, Boca Raton AAF Base, Miami Army Air Field and the First Airport of Embarkation at Miami Beach. Besides spending money he spent a month at the Orlando AAF, attending the Air Inspectors school. Quartered at Miami he was at the Fleetwood Hotel where he joined a chorus of protesting servicemen who had to go afoot about 2 flights from the 13th floor in order to reach their rooms.

After many rugged assignments back to work at the Naval Underwater Ordnance Station, Newport, R. I. where he is still employed as head of the Employment Branch. Industrial Relations Department.

Well, fellers, guess that kinda wraps it up. As you know he is now scrappily married and a most proud Papa. Glad we could get together.

The next issue of the Round-up will contain "The Civil War in Dime Novels", by J. Edward Leithead.

THE DIME NOVEL HERO IS OUT

by Willie Wildwave 1884

Have you read of the Dime Novel Hero

Who kills the red men by the score;
Who murders his aunts and his cousins,

And revels about in their gore?

The new Jesse James, the wild bandit,
Who puts all the servants to rout?

Then shout good and loud, he's away
in the crowd—

The Dime Novel Hero is out.

"Bloody Bill, the bad man of the
Prairie,"

He reads in the garret at night;
He lassos the ducks in the mill-pond;
With the old family cat has a fright,
With his pennies he'll buy a revolver;
Imagine himself a Wild Scout,
But when collared by Ma, he is wal-
loped by Pa,—

Yes, the Dime Novel Hero is out.

He has pass-words and grips for his
schoolmates,

And looks at his teacher with scorn;
He secretly whispers of murder;

Says, "She will be missing, some
morn!"

Wants his beefsteak blood rare when
at breakfast;

He grins when he smells it, no doubt;
Like a cock-of-the-walk, through the
streets he will stalk,—

Yes, the Dime Novel Hero is out.

This song is from Geo. French's collection of old-time songs. It was in a one-sheet group of songs called "No. 3 Mammoth Songster." The sheet is larger than the largest newspaper. Contains 5 woodcut pictures at the top, and 27 songs.

TIP TOP COMICS

By Robert H. Smeltzer

Well, well, Frank Merriwell come to life again?

Being a stamp collector, I chortle "Gil Patten" deserves his picture on a U. S. A. stamp, along with those famous immortals, Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, Samuel

L. Clemens, with his "Huckleberry Finn", and his "Tom Sawyer".

Some of the readers will wonder, who was Frank Merriwell, anyway. They may run to their grand-daddy and ask that question, and then he will exploit all the wonderful deeds of the great Merriwell.

Let's hope so, and also, let us hope that among those old codgers (I truly am one of them) that we will have inquiries, such as, where can I get any Merriwell novels?

My first adventure into Merriwell-dom was when I lived in a little town up-state. Luke Nolan was telegraph-operator. They were the only stories he read. I thought they were sissy stuff, but in later years I have found out that every issue contained a lesson to be honest, straightforward; a staunch and true friend in trouble, and so, I hope that all these fine attributes are wrapped up in the Frank Merriwell Comics; LET'S HOPE.

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

The week before May 28th, Lou Kohrt of Houston, Texas, paid W. B. Poage a visit, short and sweet as a fellow says. Lou likes Dime & Nickel Novels while Bill likes Hentys.

Wm. Bennett of Nashua, N. H. visited Clyde Wakefield, Ernest Beique and myself Sat. June 4th.

Who has and who hasn't seen the Frank Merriwell Comics? So far, I haven't seen them, have watched all news stands, but no luck, guess I'd better write to the company, you to do the same, as follows—Charlton Publishing Co., Derby, Conn.

I should have written before this, but kept putting it off. From what I've heard, they are pretty nice, so let's get em. Just think a dime novel converted into a comic; isn't it wonderful, "Frank Merriwell at Yale", "Frank Merriwell has Returned", and so on.

A short while ago Ken Daggett drove down to his good friend Walter Higgins for a visit, in the pouring rain, and from there to see Bill Burns

at Rockland, Maine, and what a time they had, the afternoon was gone before they knew it. They enjoyed looking over Bill's old English novels, such as Dick Turpins, Claude Duvals, and what not.

On their way to Rockland, Ken's eagle eye spotted an old farm-house, and he said to Walt "I betcha there is some books in there, huh?" and Walt says where? What books? Ha. Ha. So Ken said in here, and before he knew it, he was driving in the driveway.

Were there any books? I'll say there were books! The place turned out to be the home of an auctioneer of those parts and the barn full of stuff was odds and ends and leftovers of auctions he had for various folks. In one corner of the barn shelved off was a large table full of books. Said most all the auctions was always a few books left over. Said he sold some now and then at his place. Walt's eyes were sticking almost out of his head with surprise. Ken says they found some old editions of boys books, and after half an hour, came away with their arms full. Walt even found some cigarette cards that he was looking for. That's luck!

A. P. Moore, 8009 Wade Park Ave., Cleveland 3, Ohio. Will pay \$1.00 each for Readers Digests 1922-23.

Bob Smeltzer says they are now using Billy the Kid and Sitting Bull on T.V. What next?

Where can I get these Weeklies, and at what price? Snaps #6, Golden Weekly #102, and Comrades #13, 15 and 58. Write to the editor of this column.

That sure was a very fine article that J. P. Guinon wrote in this mag for April; it was very meaty. Give us some more, Gripper.

Have you seen "Guided Missile Target: New York" yet? If not, you better get a copy of it, for it is written by one of our members, Frank C. Acker, a regular dime novel story, only more up to date. "With the Knife of a Secret Police Commissar at his Back, The Soviet K-Boat Skipper was ordered to Launch the Stalin Guided

Missile." This fiction story comes too close to the truth. This article came out in "Our Navy" (mag) May 15, 1955—price 25c. Vol. XLIX, No. 24. Pub by "Our Navy", Inc., 1 Hauson Place, Brooklyn 17, N. Y. Frank, that's a fine article.

Hearts, (Magazine) Nov. 1916, Vol. 30, No. 5, started a fine serial called "The Great Wild West That Was", Buffalo Bill's Life Story by Col. William F. Cody. Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth. As to how many issues it ran, I don't know, but this is the first chapter and start of it. I came on this copy by accident.

I just received the bad news from Ed. Le Blanc that one of our old members has passed to the great beyond. L. C. Skinner, 36 Chaplin St., Pawtucket, R. I. died Feb. 22, this year, after a very long illness. He was a very prominent member of the H. H. Bro., as well as a very ardent collector of old dime and nickel novels of all kinds, he loved them all. He has traveled all over New England in search of his boyhood friends.

We all send our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Skinner, for we all know just how she must feel, at her great loss. God bless him always.

Frisco Bert Couch and his squaw are still traveling yet, for they are now down in "Old Mexico". Some folks are lucky, I'll say. I can't blame them, for I'd travel too, if I could. We all would, if we could, so Pard, take good care of yourself and the missus too. I'll bet it's plenty hot down there now.

Eli Messier has had more bad luck, for he lost his last dog more than a week ago—he says that's 3 dogs inside of 20 months, and is wondering if he is "jinxed".

Eli is a great lover of dogs and loves them very dearly; so does his wife. We all have things go against us, Eli, and at times we all wonder what we've done to cause us such hardships, and I guess I have my share of them, one way or another. You know, Eli, we all have so much to go through with, and we can't dodge it either, only to take it when it comes.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

151. Denis R. Rogers, Rm. 307 Imperial Bank Bldg., Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alta., Canada.
 153. John Hildebrand, 3916 7th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. (New address)
 198. Edward W. Hartung, 630 West Upsal St., Philadelphia 19, Pa. (New)
 199. Ed Levy, Charlton Bldg., Derby, Conn. (New Member)

ALL KINDS

DIME NOVELS
 NICKEL NOVELS
 STORY PAPERS
 BOYS' WEEKLIES
 SERIAL PAPERS
 BOYS' BOOKS
 GOOD USED BOOKS
 ENGLISH WEEKLIES
 BOUND VOLUMES
 PULP MAGAZINES
 and lots of other old time
 reading matter.

RALPH P. SMITH

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.

FOR SALE

Frank Merriwell's for sale, Merriwell Series, thick copies by Street & Smith, 50c per book. Over 200 copies.

John Hildebrand

3916 7th Ave. Brooklyn 32, N. Y.

WANTED

Will pay \$1.00 each for little booklets of American Indian Series, Arthur Westbrook Co. Dick Drew, etc. Also 25c for Alger books any edition.

Howard B. Silsbee

85 Boyden Ave. Maplewood, N. J.

WANTED

A copy of a Police Gazette published January or February 1911 containing an article on modern dancing.

Edmund L. Peirce

Howland Road Assonet, Mass.

I OFFER \$10 each for Munro's Ten Cent Novels Nos. 183 and 184, National Temperance's Fife & Drum Series No. 9, Beadle's Dime Novels No. 231 or Beadle's Pocket Novels No. 99 or Beadle's Boys Library (Octavo) No. 139.

I OFFER \$7.50 each for Price-McGill's Crescent Library No. 5, Price-McGill's Idle Moments Series No. 19, Beadle's Boys Library (Octavo) No. 289 or Beadle's Half-Dime Library No. 996, Cassell's Sunshine Series No. 143.

I OFFER \$5 each for Munro's Ten Cent Novels Nos. 3, 65, 75, 130, 170, 174, 189, 192, 202, 203, 209, 214, 221, 248, 253, 256, 257, 269, 294, 307, 321, Father Kit, The Ranch Raiders, Nick of the Prairies, The Trapper with the Bald Head.

I OFFER \$4 each for Munro's Ten Cent Novels Nos. 92, 102, 112, 115, 118, 155, 164, 234, 236, 243, De Witt's Ten Cent Romances Nos. 96 and 109, The Camp-Fire Library Nos. 30, 38, 51, Ornum's Ten Cent Popular Novels by Colonel Tom Travis.

DENIS R. ROGERS, c/o Horton's Book Shop
 9916-102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

FOR SALE

Who's interested in a nice set of the Young Rover Library, the American Jack Harkaway. You will laugh your head off when you read these stories. I have two sets, so I may as well sell one of them, as follows:

Nos.:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Link Rover, the Scapegrace | 28. Link Rover, Flying Wedge |
| 2. " At School Abroad | 29. " Crusoe Island |
| 3. " As a Wizard | 30. " Surprise |
| 4. " Balloon Voyage | 31. " Among the Cotton- |
| 5. " Among the Carlists | Pickers |
| 6. " Adrift | 32. " Black Double |
| 7. " In Algiers | 33. " Taws Scare-Crow |
| 8. " Strange Legacy | 34. " Awful Hoax |
| 9. " Chase | 35. " In Trouble |
| 10. " Menagerie | 36. " Success |
| 11. " The Wonder Worker | 37. " On Deck |
| 12. " Jumping Idol | 38. " In Florida |
| 13. " Pirate Junk | 39. " Stumped |
| 14. " In America | 40. " Houseboat |
| 15. " Wager | 41. " Wrecked |
| 16. " Among the Mormons | 42. " Little Jake |
| 17. " Warning | 43. " On His Mettle |
| 18. " Glorious Lark | 44. " Best Scheme |
| 19. " Stranded | 45. " Journey |
| 20. " Camp-Fires | 46. " In Cuba |
| 21. " On Guard | 47. " Afloat and Ashore |
| 22. " Discovery | 48. " Magic Salve |
| 23. " Trapped | 49. " In Old Mexico |
| 24. " The Money-Makers | 50. " Triumph |
| 25. " In Chicago | 51. " Among the Fire Wor- |
| 26. " Strategy | shippers |
| 27. " Among the Shantyboat | 52. " At Coney Island |
| Men | |

Most of the above in good uncut condition, a few stamped or roughed a little, but outside of that, I'd call it a very good lot. All have covers on them. Same size as Tip Top Weekly. No. 1 came out Sept. 24th, 1904 and ended with No. 52, Sept. 16th, 1905. All stories in this weekly written by Gale Richards. Link Rover, the American Jack Harkaway. Price \$50.00 cash or trade, or both. Have a few duplicates at \$1.00 a copy. They are all well worth the price I am asking. If you are short of money, what have you in the line of novels you wish to trade?

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.